



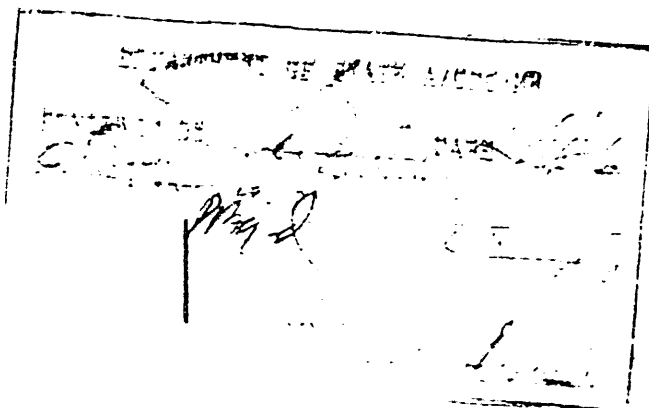
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5. NEA - PAK/AFGHAN TENSIONS RISE (CONFIDENTIAL)

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRO-SOVIET AFGHAN REGIME OF MOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI (DRA) AND THE PAKISTANI MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT ZIA (GOP) CONTINUE A DOWNWARD SLIDE BEGUN IN MID-MARCH. THE DRA HAS INCREASINGLY SOUGHT TO BLAME A SPREADING DOMESTIC INSURGENCY (WHICH NOW AFFECTS NEARLY ALL OF AFGHANISTAN'S PROVINCES) ON EXTERNAL FORCES, ESPECIALLY ITS NEIGHBORS, PAKISTAN AND IRAN. THE PAKISTANIS HAVE SHOWN PUBLIC RESTRAINT IN RESPONDING TO AFGHAN PROVOCATIONS ALONG THE DURAND LINE WHICH FORMS THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE DRA--WITH ECHOS FROM MOSCOW--CHARGES THE GOP WITH ARMING AND TRAINING THE AFGHAN REBELS AND CLAIMS THAT PAKISTANI SOLDIERS AND "MILITIA" HAVE CROSSED INTO AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF THE INSURGENTS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH CHARGES, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT SOME OF THE PUSHTUN TRIBES LIVING ON THE PAKISTANI SIDE OF THE DURAND LINE HAVE JOINED THEIR AFGHAN BRETHREN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OUST WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS AN ATHEISTIC AND COMMUNIST REGIME WHICH HAS MORTGAGED ITSELF TO THE SOVIET UNION.

THE GOP IS CONCERNED BY NEARLY 50 VIOLATIONS OF PAKISTANI AIRSPACE BY AFGHAN PLANES IN PURSUIT OF REBEL GROUPS AS WELL AS SOME CROSS-BORDER SHELLING INCIDENTS. MOREOVER, THE GOP HAS HAD TO CONFRONT A RISING TIDE OF AFGHAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED THE OPPRESSION AND DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. THE GOP, WHICH ESTIMATES THEIR NUMBERS AT OVER 100,000, HAS ASKED THE UNHCR IN GENEVA TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

THE TRIBAL AREAS WHICH STRADDLE THE PAK/AFGHAN BORDER HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE SCENE OF CONSIDERABLE INTERNECINE WARFARE. RELIGIOUS FEELINGS, DESIRES FOR AUTONOMY, TRADITIONAL XENOPHOBIA, AND EVEN HOPES FOR BOOTY HAVE PROVEN TO BE STRONG MOTIVES IN TRIBAL DECISIONS TO MOVE AGAINST THE DRA. THERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT THEY ARE NOW MOVING TOWARD GREATER UNITY AND AN AGREED-UPON LEADERSHIP, INGREDIENTS WHICH SO FAR HAVE BEEN LACKING.

FROM MOSCOW, THE SOVIETS CAST A WARY EYE TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN AFGHANISTAN AND BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS NEIGHBORS. AFTER WARNING PAKISTAN AGAINST INTERFERING

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IN AFGHANISTAN, MOSCOW HAS ARTICULATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO "PROTECT" THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND HAS URGED INDIA TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN IN SUPPORT OF RESTRAINT. MEANWHILE, A FREQUENTLY VITRIOLIC ANTI-PAKISTAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN FROM KABUL CONTRIBUTES TO THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE HANGING OVER THE BORDER AREAS.

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